

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Memorandum

TO: Commissioners Clark, Kalk and Cramer
Darrell Nitschke
Illona A. Jeffcoat-Sacco

From: Jim Deutsch, Director - AML Division

Date: March 16, 2012

Subject: Award of a contract for exploratory drilling at abandoned underground coal mines in southwestern North Dakota

In mid-February, AML staff prepared an Invitation for Bid for an exploratory drilling project in areas with known underground mine workings near Belfield, Bowman, Scranton, Reeder and New Leipzig. Drilling to locate possible underground mine voids will be conducted on road right-of-ways and near homes and commercial buildings. Approximately 32,500 feet of vertical drilling is planned. When mine voids are located, the drill holes will be cased to serve as injection holes for possible future grouting projects.

March 9th was the deadline for submitting bids and we received four bids on the project. The bids ranged from \$170,500 to \$221,000, while the staff estimate was \$197,500. The lowest responsive bid of \$170,500 was submitted by T & C Drilling, Inc. of Mandan. Following a review of all bids on March 9th, the Notice of Intent to Award was issued to announce the intent to award a contract to T & C Drilling. The other bidders had seven days to protest the notice of intent to award, but no protests were received.

I recommend the Commission award a contract to T & C Drilling, Inc. in the amount of \$170,500 for exploratory drilling at abandoned underground coal mines in southwestern North Dakota. Attached is a motion for the March 21st Commission meeting to approve the award of the contract.

Attachment

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